

The

GLIDER EXPRESS



PCR-CA-334

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WELCOMED BLAST FROM THE PAST VISITS SQUADRON 36

Maj Mike "Monty" Montgomery
Public Affairs Officer



Maj Montgomery and Mrs. Marty Mayer

The lady's warm smile and the knowing glance might have fooled a few Squadron 36 folks into thinking that the Nov. 15 guest was just a regular casual visitor.

Several of the seasoned Squadron 36 members might say otherwise... Before Monty, before Jerry, and before Jim...there was Marty.

Capt Martha "Marty" Mayer assumed command from Lt Dan Kamciek in the early 1990s when our own Captain Mike Hodges, was an up-and-coming cadet. Capt Mayer also saw the entry of then- SM Jim Sena and then-C/B "Jopie" Sena.

Though no longer in CAP, Mrs. Mayer took a moment to revisit her former CAP unit to catch

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CADET NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS SCHOOL "NCOS"

C/A1C Mike Campos
Bravo Flight Member



On November 11 to 13, an activity was held called "Cadet Non Commissioned Officer School," at the San Francisco Armory. Cadets from all over Northern California attended this school in order to improve their leadership abilities as sergeants ("NCOs") in the Civil Air Patrol. Five cadets from Squadron 36 attended: Cadets Mike Campos, Jill Stauffer, Ken Orvick, Tania Samsonoff, and Chenny Zhang. Cadets Orvick, Samsonoff, and Zhang also held staff positions, overseeing other cadets' training.

When I first arrived on Friday I thought the weekend would be about following commands like (one might at) at an encampment or basic cadet school. However, I was shocked when we were told that during the weekend, we were in charge! The students were in charge of commanding a flight, getting (the flight) to class on time, and managing the flight's time. Truly during the weekend, we were the sergeants!

Our flight learned to develop their voice commands and how to command the flight on the drill field. In the classroom, we learned how to teach others and the responsibilities of the sergeants. One of the biggest experiences for me was learning how to talk and present myself to an

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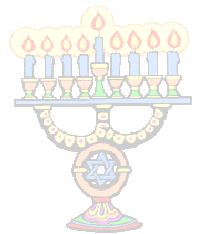
ARTICLES! If you have an interesting "tid-bit" to share, e-mail it to Squadron 36 at:

mmontgomery@cawg.cap.gov

or type your notes and send them to:

The Glider Express
4300 The Woods Drive Apt 1003
San Jose CA 95136





SCHEDULE*(Subject to Change! Always Confirm with Your Cadet!)*

Dec 6 (Tues)

Meeting: Squadron "Drill Down." Service Uniform/Aviator Uniform.

Dec 10 (Sat)

Activity: Level 1/CPPT for new seniors and cadets age 18 or older.

Dec 13 (Tues)

Meeting: Moral Leadership. Service Uniform/Aviator Uniform.

Dec 20 (Tues)

Activity: Squadron "End of the Year" Party. Civilian clothes.

Dec 27 (Tues)

*****NO MEETING*****

Jan 3 (Tues)

Meeting: Undetermined at this time. Service Uniform/Aviator Uniform.

Jan 10 (Tues)

Meeting: Undetermined at this time. Service Uniform/Aviator Uniform.

Jan 14 (Sat)

Activity: SAREX @ Palo Alto Airport. Battle Dress Uniform. CAPID, 101 Card, and applicable SQTR **required**. POC for this event is Capt Keith J. Stason. **Registration deadline is 6 Jan 06**. Submit name, CAPID, desired function, and squadron # via CAWG Form 31 **through your chain of command!**

Jan 17 (Tues)

Meeting: Undetermined at this time. Battle Dress Uniform/CAP equivalent.

Jan 24 (Tues)

Meeting: Undetermined at this time. Battle Dress Uniform/CAP equivalent.

Jan 31 (Tues)

Activity: 5th Tuesday "Fun" Night. Regular attire**LEGEND:****unless otherwise mentioned**, all meetings and activities will occur or start (and end) at Squadron 36's standard meeting location: Reid Hillview Airport.**RED LETTERS** = Activities that factor into cadets' attendance record*Wondering About the Chains of Command? Is it tough to keep 'em straight?***NO WORRIES!***The "Who's Who" of the USAF and CAP are here, along with their biographies!*<http://sq36.cawg.cap.gov/keyfigures.html>

* * *

Squadron 36 congratulates the following members for accomplishments since our last newsletter!Cadet Reese Williams
(C/Amn)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Capt Kevin McDowell
Commander, Squadron 80




When your esteemed commander asked me to be a guest columnist, flashes of Creative Writing and essay tests hit me...despite being out of high school for well over 30 years. However, with his advice to write on my thoughts about Squadron 36 and my vision for the future, the job turned out to be pretty easy; even enjoyable.

Over the past several months, I have seen a marked difference in the role of Squadron 36 in the 3rd pillar of CAP's mission – Emergency Services (ES.) I already knew how dedicated you were to Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs and all the activities associated with those programs. However, since March, involvement with ES appears to be making Squadron 36 a more complete organization, more capable of participating in critical missions for our community and country.

With your involvement in several SAREXs and other training exercises, Squadron 36 has made real headway in coming up to speed in skills such as Urban Direction Finding (UDF) and other ground team activities. Some of your members are more familiar with mission base operations, flightline operations, aircrew (even your commander is now being called to help on missions as a scanner and observer-trainee!) as well as the ever-present rules and regulations related to ES. These are all very commendable advances for your squadron and I am very pleased Squadron 80 has been able to help in some way.

So what does the future hold? I would like to see continued cross training between our two groups. There are areas, such as Aerospace, where I think Squadron 36 can provide some valuable advice and guidance to Squadron 80. In return, I would like to see even stronger ties between our ES programs...and this includes both Squadron 36 cadets and seniors. I think Squadron 36's increased participation in SAREXs and other ES training activities will prepare you for key roles in ES missions such as Homeland Security, CA's Office of Emergency Services requirements and aircraft searches.

I look forward to working with you and your commander over the next year to make headway in all these areas. When my previous company merged with Hewlett-Packard, the phrase "Better Together" was used to reflect the benefits of two strong companies working together. I certainly can apply this to our groups and can only envision both Squadron 80 and Squadron 36 ending 2006 as even stronger organizations. 



HEAD'S UP!

January 2006 is fast approaching. Come January, the commander must assign new senior staff members and will also assign new cadet staff members.

Take a look at your schedules, take a look at your long-term CAP goals, and then step up accordingly!

CADETS:

A Cadet Commander will be appointed, as well as appointments and/or reappointments for cadets in all cadet staff. All grades may apply for ALL positions but...all grades must be prepared to substantiate their desires. Consult AFH 33-337, *The Tongue and Quill*, as well as CAPR 10-1, *Preparing and Processing Correspondence*, and submit a formal memorandum. Include what you would like

Not sure how to access your online CAP information? Best learn how...keeping your information current is YOUR responsibility!

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Step 2A: If you are NEW, click the "First time e-services" link, follow the instructions, and then return to Step 1.

Step 2B: If you are not new, enter your CAPID and your password.

Step 3: On the left-hand side, look down the list and find "interactive personnel system." Click that link.

Step 4: Enter your first and last name or simply hit "search."

Step 5: Look for the sentence in red that says, "if you would like to change info, click here." Click that link.

Step 6: The first section is "Personal Information." Click that link.

Step 7: Fill in as much as you can – PARTICULARLY your height, weight, eye color, hair color, etc.

Step 8: Click "finished"

Continued on Page 2, "Climate Survey"

Montgomery says that it is encouraging to see that our leadership officer earned a 3.67 having only been in the squadron for 8 months. He hopes to see this change to a 4 or better by next October. It is also good to see that most have confidence in their cadet leaders and feel appreciated at the squadron, but, once again, there is a little room for improvement. The questions below were rated between 4 and 4.5 and met the Squadron Commander's hopes.

The general feeling is that it is rewarding to be a part of Squadron 36. Many see benefits to the attendance policy as well. Many also agree that our own Squadron Commander, Major Michael S. Montgomery, Jr., is an excellent example for the members to follow. He has also earned the confidence of the majority of the squadron as have the rest of the senior members.

Most members believe that we should not have a cadet commander without looking at his or her rank and experience. Many would rather have a cadet commander in whom they already have confidence and trust. The majority also believes we should not have an encampment environment. Some see discipline, order, and maturity as possible benefits that could come from it. Others believe that it would scare many people away who might otherwise consider joining the squadron, and consider that type of environment unrealistic compared to military lifestyle. Also, the majority strongly agrees that Squadron 36 does not discriminate based upon gender, race, or religious preferences. This quality might contribute to cadets feeling appreciated by the squadron.

A very strong score of 4.75 suggests that at least 24 of our members will renew their CAP membership. As we can clearly see, Squadron 36 is sufficient in many areas, but can also use improvement in others. We should expect to see our squadron develop and grow within the near future. 🏆

CIVIL AIR PATROL: THROUGH THE EYES OF A PARENT

C/MSgt Chenny Zhang
Bravo Flight Commander



To some Civil Air Patrol cadets, CAP is a hard, painful, stressful, intense program. To others, it's an awesome, wonderful, loving program. But who wonders what the parents think about CAP? Well, I interviewed my mother – Xiaoling Xu – on what she thought in general about CAP.

Zhang: How did you hear about CAP?

Xu: My daughter flew alone back from Alabama on American Airlines as a minor so she had to wait until all the passengers left the plane. Then she had the chance to talk to the captain who is a female AF Academy graduate. They talked for half an hour and Chenny expressed her dream of becoming an AF fighter pilot. The captain gave her some advice to start her career, Civil Air Patrol being one great program. So I helped Chenny search online and found that there was a squadron very close to our home. I called the office and came in on a Tuesday with Chenny and she decided right away that she wanted to join. The next week she went with all the cadets to the USS Hornet activity and since then, she has been very involved with CAP.

Zhang: What do you think and feel about the cadet programs of CAP?

Xu: I feel that the cadet program is very unique and needed in this country for teenagers.

Zhang: How so?

Xu: Because I came from another culture. To me, in this country, the discipline education for the young kids is not enough. A CAP cadet program provides an opportunity to give discipline training to the youth. It trains them how to show respect to elders and how to be a good citizen and how to work as a team. It's a positive environment for teenagers in the chaotic world we live in today. And also, it's a good leadership training environment. For young kids that have a dream in aviation, it provides an opportunity to get involved mentally through the study of aerodynamics and physically with air shows and O-rides. It opens another door for people to pursue their dream.

Zhang: Is this a program that you would tell others about?

Xu: Definitely yes, but my personal character is not the kind that advertises. I think CAP should advertise this program more because there are thousand of people who probably want to do this but don't know about it.

Zhang: What are some of the things that you think CAP can improve in?

Xu: Well, I think that CAP should have a way to let their cadets know about the many good programs they have (i.e., congressional awards, national activities, and some veteran award I'm not sure about.) CAP also has high quality training with a reasonable price compared to other summer camps.

Zhang: Well is there anything else you would like to say?

Xu: Hmmm. I feel like, after my daughter joined CAP, it's been very time consuming and I spent a lot of time driving her around, as well as reminding her about a lot of things. I don't need to yell at her anymore because CAP has taught her how to push herself to the limit and developed a lot of self-confidence, as well as saved a lot of the disciplinary things that I would have go through with my younger kids. So I'm happy. And I know that CAP isn't for everyone but if the kid likes the program then the parent should fully support them. 🙌

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Step 2B: If you are not new, enter your CAPID and your password.

Step 3: On the left-hand side, look down the list and find "Personal ES SQTR Entry." Click that link.

Step 4: The first pull-down box should be selected to say "OPS-Emergency Services"

Step 5: The second pull-down box should be selected to match your SQTR (i.e., "UDF, etc.)

Step 6: The third line should ask you for your trainer's CAPID. Get that info from your SQTR and type that into the white box.

Step 7: The fourth line should ask you for a mission number. If you got a task completed during a SAREX, put the SAREX's mission number in the white box...otherwise, leave it blank.

Step 8: The fifth line should ask you for the date you completed the task you wish to enter. Type the date in "mm/dd/yyyy" format (i.e., 05/26/1977.)

Step 9: Click "Display Tasks"

Step 10: From there, go down the list and check the appropriate box(es) besides the task you completed.

Step 11: Select "Submit Tasks" when done.

9 MONTHS IN: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE COMMANDER

Maj Johanna J. Montgomery
Leadership Officer

It is the end of the year! Before we set our sites on 2006, let us take a moment to interview the commander, Maj Monty Montgomery, and see how we are doing and what is in store for next year!

JM:

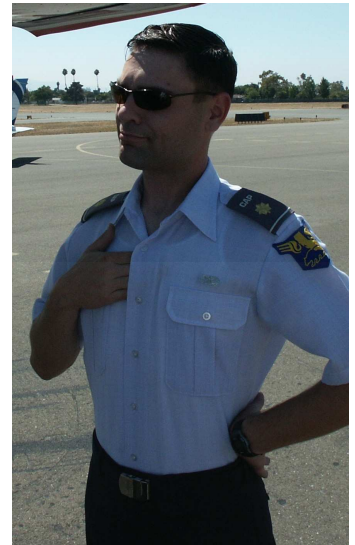
MM: Without a doubt, the hardest thing for me has been to set aside many of my own personal opinions on matters in order to better serve others while representing Civil Air Patrol. It is a big responsibility to act as the voice of CAP here at 36 and it has taken some growing on my part to lead with compassion & conviction instead of reacting through simple emotion. Fortunately though, the easiest part of this job has been getting to know the people; sharing a laugh, showing others that we can be professional without taking ourselves so seriously that we no longer enjoy coming to CAP.

JM:

MM: Wow, you are making this seem like ABC's "20/20" news show! I am a professional development officer by default, which means, all those senior member training courses have become part of my operational style. Here at 36, there is obviously more attention placed upon the cadet programs side of the house. In my opinion, this means that sometimes, the expectations and training we learn in our professional development courses goes "wonky" when crossed against the cadet programs training and the cadet programs' needs. Therefore, I have had to set aside some of the things I would do by instinct and instead, be ready to embrace the best ways to help cadets.

JM:

MM: One of the fundamental goals I had when I became a commander was to "open up the drapes and windows" here at 36. We have really become very well at communicating with other squadrons and realizing that we are all part of CAP as opposed to just being our own little group. This has led to our being able to eat the full CAP meal instead of just the appetizers. Orientation flights, ES training, Basic Cadet Schools, etc. Additionally, I hope that I have shown folks that you can still be a professional while at the same time, be approachable, kind-hearted, and fun. Sometimes we forget that good "F" word: FUN!



"...sometimes we forget to have FUN!"

JM:

MM: I think it is natural to view new things as "spooky" until you get used to them. It is a shame that some of the most fun parts of CAP required getting used to but by this point in the game; I think the letters "SQTR" are almost as understood as "NCOS" are. Furthermore, I have seen young folks grinning ear-to-ear after getting out of the airplanes with Cpts Bejsovec and Stason. We have had very little – if any – grumblings from folks simply because; it is hard to talk badly about having fun.

JM: Sir

MM: Well, I will highlight two items. I believe that our cadets have gained enough experience to operate the cadet side with some relaxed oversight from we senior members in 2006. We had a big vacancy in leadership cadets for a while but by this point, we have "grown" our own and they are ready to take control: so look for that, come January. Additionally, I would like to institute the "36 in 2006" philosophy. This means that we field 36 active, quality cadets at a meeting for the first time in recent memory. This is pretty reasonable, given that we tend to average about 20 cadets per meeting in attendance. If we can do that, I will gladly hand the shears to the squadron, they can shave my head bald, and I will lose the goatee.

JM:

MM: If it looks too funny, I have a Darth Vader helmet to cover my head until the hair grows back!

JM:

MM: I cannot say as I ever did. I was blessed to have the best CAP mentor I guy (or gal) could have...but I never thought I would have the chance to do the same type of job he did. He was my commander and he set the tone for me when I first joined. If anything, I hope that he looks us up on the web from South Dakota and gives me some feedback some time!

JM:

MM: I think CAP does a fantastic job at producing a military-like program for young people, complete with many great lessons for life. However, I think we may – at times – have a tendency to sometimes be too wrapped up in the presentation itself and not as involved in reinforcing the point of the cadet program in the first place: helping young folks prepare to be great citizens in America. For example, when I competed for an AFROTC commissioning opportunity, I had a one-on-one meeting with my USAF squadron commander in order for him to either recommend my candidacy or reject me. During the whole interview, I stared straight ahead, never missed a “yes Sir,” and was the model for all things “poster boy Air Force.”

He recommended me for AFROTC at the close of the meeting, and commended me for my professionalism, but not before advising me that it would be much better to be more interactive and intuitive in my responses, versus acting like a robot once I returned to the operational Air Force. I have taken that to heart and use that premise in all my dealings with people, both professional and personal. Cadets likely hear me use the “robot” analogy quite a bit during my commander’s portion of our meeting when I desperately try to have interactive dialogue. The cadet program is not designed to emulate a “Gunnery Sergeant Hartman/Private Snowball” interaction style, but rather; it is designed to gear cadets to think responsibly, engage forethought, act appropriately, and to become great citizens for America: all within an AF-like environment. I hope that this is the lesson they take with them when they go on to become parents, priests, doctors, plumbers, physicists, and military officers – regardless of their career paths or life situations.

JM:

MM: That is a difficult question to answer because while I have in fact moved around from wing to wing, no two wings are alike. We are talking about “apples and oranges” comparisons. I have served at various levels in North Dakota, California, Tennessee, Washington, and Alabama Wings. Each seemed to have their particular strengths and weaknesses to such an extent that, it is not possible to say which is better than another is. However, I can offer some plusses and minuses to California Wing from my 9-month vantage. I am very taken to how well the programs seem to run out here. The Cadet Program “machine” can seemingly run with its own people without having to bother others or get in others’ way – it is that big and well maintained. Same is true with the aircraft operations side of the wing.

I would say that I have seen more “segregated” units in California – despite its size – when compared to many other wings. There seems – to me – to be a tendency to segregate into cadet units and senior units more so here than in other places I have been, which I honestly think hinders many cadets and seniors from enjoying volunteerism together. Fortunately, there seems to be a growing drive here in the San Francisco Bay area to offer hands of friendship to other units regardless of how old the people inside the units are. I think this growing drive is what will stand out in my mind as one of the best things California Wing has given me – and respectively, to the cadets – here at Squadron 36.

JM:

MM: Just because I have moved to California does not mean I abandon my allegiances. Kansas City Chiefs, win or lose.

JM:

MM: Any time! 🙌



*Brand new CAP 2d Lt
Mike “Monty”
Montgomery, Feb ‘99.
No idea he’d command a
CAP squadron.*



The Glider Express

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